

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 07963 131922Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SCS-06 CA-01
PPT-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 AID-05 HA-05 USSS-00
OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 ACDA-12 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04
SIL-01 /109 W

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O 131752Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5324
INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION USNATO

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BRUSSELS ALSO FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: N.A.
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SP
SUBJECT: BASQUE VIOLENCE WINDS DOWN

REF: 1. MADRID 7920, 2. MADRID 7864, 3. MADRID 7776

1. AMCONSUL BILBAO REPORTS THAT THE VIZCAYAN CAPITAL HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL JULY 13 AND SO APPARENTLY HAVE PAMPLONA AND VITORIA. HE TRAVELED TO SAN SEBASTIAN EARLY JULY 13, AND FOUND THE CITY FUNCTIONING NORMALLY,
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WITH THE BEACHES CROWDED. ONLY THE SAN SEBASTIAN SUBURB OF RENTERIA, WHERE TWO YOUTHS WERE SLIGHTLY WOUNDED BY POLICE GUNFIRE JULY 12, CONTINUED TO BE CONFLICTIVE, AND THIS TOO APPEARED TO BE WINDING DOWN. ALL US CITIZENS WITH WHOM HE CHECKED IN SAN SEBASTIAN WERE SAFE, AND THEY ARE FREE TO DEPART THE CITY TODAY IF THEY DESIRE TO DO SO.

2. THERE WERE SCATTERED STRIKES AND SOME STREET PROTESTS JULY 12 IN VARIOUS BASQUE LOCALITIES, PARTICULARLY THE FOUR PROVINCIAL CAPITALS. BUT THE ONLY SERIOUS INCIDENTS WERE THE RENTERIA CLASH WHICH RESULTED IN THE TWO INJURIES REPORTED ABOVE AND SOME TENSE MOMENTS WHEN BASQUE PARLIAMENTARIANS BENEGAS (PSOE) AND BANDRES (INDEPENDENT) WERE ROUGHED UP AS A PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION THEY WERE LEADING CROSSED PATHS WITH A MORE RADICAL GROUP OF PROTESTERS IN. SAN SEBASIAN. INSULTS WERE EXCHANGED AND A FRAY ENSUED.

3. THE PEACEFUL BENEGAS/BANDRES-LED MARCH JULY 12 RESULTED FROM AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CIVIL GOVERNOR, UNDER THE TERM OF WHICH THE POLICE WERE WITHDRAWN AND THE FUNERAL MASS FOR THE SAN SEBASTIAN YOUTH SLAIN JULY 11 COULD BE CARRIED OUT, IN EXCHANGE FOR A GUARANTEE THAT THE MARCH WOULD BE PEACEFUL AND THAT THE ORGANIZERS WOULD ALSO CALL FOR THE POPULACE TO RETURN TO THEIR NORMAL PURSUITS JULY 13. THE MORE RADICAL MARCHERS WERE ANGRY WITH THE BENEGAS-BANDRES GROUP FOR HAVING AGREED TO THE CALL FOR A RETURN TO NORMALITY, AND WERE LOOKING FOR A FIGHT. THE CLASH WAS BROKEN UP WITH NO REPORTED SERIOUS INJURIES.

4. COMMENT: THE CLEAR TREND TOWARD NORMALCY WILL NONE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THELESS CONTINUE TO BE A FRAGILE ONE FOR THE NEXT 24 TO 48 HOURS, AND MUCH WILL CONTINUE TO DEPEND ON THE RESTRAINT OF THE POLICE AND THE WISDOM OF THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES. EATON

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